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FROM: Kika de la Garza

Washington, D.C.

TEN DAYS IN JULY, 1978 MAY WELL PROVE HISTORIC in the relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China. The chief reason is an apparent dramatic and major shift in Chinese tactics over the future of Taiwan.

My Congressional colleagues and I return home from a fascinating journey with clear indications from both the leaders and the people of this land of nearly a billion population that China now faces tough domestic and foreign policy questions with "new realism".

In visits to educational facilities, cultural institutions and factories alike, the message was the same: very real strategic and political problems confront the Chinese. For one thing, there's that "Polar Bear" -- the Soviet Union -- and what the Chinese call Russia's "Asian Cuba" -- Vietnam.

On the question of Taiwan, China seems to be seeking ways of settling this problem on a bilateral basis, between the Chinese themselves, in the light of existing realities.

As one high official told our delegation in response to a question from me: "There has been no official contact with Taiwan, but you cannot rule out a third time." This was in reference to the historical fact that twice in the past the Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang (the Nationalist Party) have cooperated when it was in their common interest.

The desire for trade and our advanced technology is behind the Chinese realization that international peace and internal growth lie in an improved relationship with the United States. We come home convinced that China now has decided that closer ties are in the best interests of both our countries.

Our delegation thinks there's a pretty savvy Texan who might put on still another big hat to help make the most of this growing Chinese pragmatism. If you've guessed Bob Strauss, you've guessed right. We'll be seriously considering a proposal for the White House that would send our President's troubleshooter to China in our nation's behalf. We will have more on this subject at a later date.

* * *

A GOOD DESCRIPTION OF THE CHINESE EATING EXPERIENCE might be: start with an 8-course breakfast, follow with a 12-course lunch, and finish with a 16-course dinner. Combine with Shanghai's 100-degree heat and 100-percent humidity, and it's good to be back in the committee room with the familiar pitcher of water.

* * *

THE IMPACT OF CITRUS ON THE VALLEY'S ECONOMY was very much in mind during a recent visit to my office by the first secretary and the counselor of the Japanese Embassy to discuss citrus imports to their country and trade in general. I'm very hopeful that concrete trade proposals will follow from this diplomatic meeting.

* * *

RANKING AMONG THE TOP 10 STATES, Texas in 1977 received more than \$92 million for goods, services, and agricultural products purchased by the federal government for the U.S. foreign aid program.

A study by the Agency for International Development (AID) shows that Texas farmers and food processors received \$79,516,000 for grain and other agricultural commodities for developing countries under the Food for Peace Program, which is jointly administered by AID and the Department of Agriculture.

The balance, \$12,995,335, went to Texas manufacturers and other firms for goods and commodities used in overseas economic development programs administered by AID. The study also showed contracts in effect in Texas for technical services provided by universities and individual experts totaled \$23,691,813.

The commodities and services purchased by the government are used to help stimulate economic growth in less-developed countries, many of which supply raw material for U.S. manufacturing and also are export markets for U.S. products.

Since 1969, when detailed records were first kept, AID has spent \$399,656,499 in Texas for goods and services for use in the foreign aid program. Our state is proud to be a leader in helping to combat problems in less-developed countries that affect the peace, security, and well-being of our nation.

* * *

THE ABUSE OF PERSONS APPREHENDED OR DETAINED by law enforcement officers, particularly in the cities and counties of Texas, Arizona, California, and New York, was the subject of my recent meeting with our distinguished Attorney General Griffin Bell.

The federal government, my colleagues and I have been assured, will no longer tolerate any abuses of the civil or human rights of any individual. Everyone, my dear friends, is God's creature, and the great majority of our people obey the law and respect the rights of others, as it is engraved in our heritage and our culture.

As I have often told police groups, it is not up to the investigator to decide whether a person is guilty or not guilty. The courts, juries, and other jurisdictions have this responsibility.

Whether a person be a citizen or not, or a fugitive for any reason, every individual must be accorded his or her full human rights before being judged for the commission of any crime.

* * *

VISITORS FROM HOME this week were Pat and Dick Basler, Brownsville; the Thomas L. Yates family, Harlingen; the Richard R. Gonzalez family, Hebbronville; the Bob Sanchez family, McAllen; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Eilers, Mercedes; and Mr. and Mrs. Mark W. Witte, Three Rivers.

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